

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 298727 TOSEC 100062

60

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /033 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: EUR/SE:BSCARLIS:DD

APPROVED BY: EUR/SE:WLEAGLETON

S/S-O:DMACK

----- 038819

P 222210Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 198727 TOSEC 100062

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 198727 ACTION ATHENS INFO ANKARA
NICOSIA NATO USCINCEUR USCINCUSNAVEUR NAVDET SOUDA BAY CRETE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES COMSIXTHFLT COMFAIRMED NAPLES CTF SIX THREE
NAF SIGNELLA IT USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS CHJUSMAAG ATHENS USDAO
ATHENS GR 21 AUGUST 75.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 198727

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, IS, SOPN

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON SOUDA BAY AMMUNITION
SHORTAGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AUGUST 21 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE
BY STEVEN ROBERTS ENTITLED " GREEKS IN CRISIS TOOK U.S.
SUPPLIES - MUNITIONS SEIZED AS CYPRUS ERUPTED BEING RE-
PLACED." BEGIN TEXT: THE GREEK MILITARY COMMAND SEIZED
SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN AMMUNITION DURING
THE CYPRUS CRISIS LAST SUMMER, ACCORDING TO GREEK AND AMERI-
CAN OFFICIALS HERE.

2. THE AMOUNT IS NOW BEING MADE UP, EITHER IN CASH OR IN
KIND. "THE MATTER WILL BE SETTLED HONORABLY AND WELL FOR
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 298727 TOSEC 100062

BOTH PARTIES," SAID A SENIOR GREEK OFFICIAL.

3. GREEK OFFICIALS ARE UPSET ABOUT DISCLOSURE OF THE INCIDENT, WHICH THEY DESCRIBE AS "VERY MINOR." IT COMES ONLY A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS RESUMES DEBATE ON THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY, AND THE MATTER COULD STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE OPPONENTS OF THE EMBARGO.

4. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN VISITING ATHENS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE PRIVATELY TOLD THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAT THE EMBARGO WILL PROBABLY BE LIFTED NEXT MONTH.

5. CONGRESS IMPOSED THE EMBARGO IN FEBRUARY ON THE GROUND THAT TURKEY HAD ILLEGALLY USED AMERICAN ARMS IN THE INVASION OF CYPRUS. GREECE HAS BEEN COUNTING HEAVILY ON THE BAN TO FORCE TURKEY TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE POLICY ON CYPRUS, WHERE ANKARA STILL CONTROLS 40 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY.

6. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MISSING AMMUNITION WAS EVER SENT TO CYPRUS. BUT AS ONE DIPLOMATIC ANALYST HERE NOTED: "IT'S NATURAL FOR THE GREEKS TO WANT TO BE AS PURE AS CAESAR'S WIFE. THIS COULD WEAKEN THE CASE FOR THE STRICT APPLICATION OF THE LAW AGAINST TURKEY.

7. THE AMMUNITION WAS OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES BUT EAR-MARKED FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AND GUARDED BY GREEK TROOPS. IT WAS ALL CONVENTIONAL AIR FORCE ORDNANCE AND THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO THREAT TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BASED IN GREECE, WHICH REMAIN UNDER AMERICAN CONTROL, OFFICIALS SAID.

8. THE SEIZED ORDNANCE WAS STORED AT SUDA BAY IN WESTERN CRETE, WHERE GREECE MAINTAINS A MAJOR AIR AND NAVAL BASE. THE UNITED STATES HAS A SMALL FACILITY WITHIN THE BASE, WHICH IS ALSO USED OCCASIONALLY BY OTHER NATO COUNTRIES.

9. ACCORDING TO GREEK OFFICIALS THE ORDNANCE WAS TAKEN SOME TIME BETWEEN JULY 20 AND THE END OF THE MONTH LAST YEAR. ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, THE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS, WAS OVERTHROWN IN A COUP D'ETAT ORGANIZED BY THE GREEK JUNTA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 298727 TOSEC 100062

ON JULY 15. TURKISH TROOPS INVADED THE ISLAND ON THE 20TH. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HERE COLLAPSED AND CIVILIAN RULE WAS RESTORED ON JULY 24.

10. DURING THAT PERIOD THE GREEK ARMY HAD MOBILIZED FOR POSSIBLE CLASH WITH TURKEY, AND THE SENIOR GREEK OFFICIAL NOTED: "WHEN YOU ARE FACING WAR AND DEATH YOU DON'T TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION MANY THINGS."

11. THE LOSS WAS DISCOVERED SEVERAL MONTHS LATER DURING A ROUTINE SECURITY CHECK BY AMERICAN OR NATO PERSONNEL, OFFICIALS SAID. WHEN THE NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS TOLD OF THE SITUATION, IT IMMEDIATELY ADMITTED THE RESPONSIBILITY AND OFFERED TO MAKE GOOD, THEY ADDED.

12. SINCE THE GREEKS DID NOT RETALIATE AGAINST THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS, MOST OF THE AMMUNITION WAS APPARENTLY NEVER USED. SOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN USED IN TRAINING EXERCISES, THE OFFICIALS SAID.

13. THE SENIOR GREEK OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT ALL THE GREEK MILITARY COMMANDERS WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEIZURE HAD NOW BEEN RETIRED. NO SPECIAL PUNISHMENT IS CONTEMPLATED, HE ADDED, BUT NEW SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE. END TEXT. MAW
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, AMMUNITION, TEXTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOSSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE298727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SE:BSCARLIS:DD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750292-0039
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750825/aaaaavpz.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <15 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON SOUDA BAY AMMUNITION SHORTAGE
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, SOPN, GR, US, NEW YORK TIMES, (ROBERTS, STEVEN)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006